

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for the solid phase synthesis of bio-oligomers characterised in that wherein at least one washing step is carried out in the presence of a salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^m)_n$, wherein X represents a cation, n represents the charge of the cation, y represents an anion and m represents the charge of the anion.
2. (currently amended) A process for attaching an appropriately protected monomer or oligomer to another monomer or oligomer which is protected by a protecting group and which is attached to a support, comprising the following steps:
 - a) cleave cleaving the protecting group from the monomer or oligomer attached to the support; and then
 - b) perform performing a thorough washing; and then
 - c) add adding an appropriately protected monomer or oligomer and couple coupling it to the monomer or oligomer that is attached to the support, to form a covalent bond; characterized in that during the process, wherein a salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^m)_n$ which is soluble in a solvent used in this process, is added, process is added, and wherein, if the salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^m)_n$ is added in step c), the solvent is neither a chloroform/phenol nor a chloroform/trifluoroethanol mixture.
3. (currently amended) A process for attaching an α -amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus to another amino acid or peptide which is protected by an α - amino protecting group and which is attached to a support during solid phase peptide synthesis comprising the following steps:
 - a) cleave cleaving the α -amino protecting group from the amino acid or peptide attached to the support; and then
 - b) perform performing a thorough washing; and then

- c) add adding an α -amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus and couple coupling it to the amino acid or peptide that is attached to the support and that now has an unprotected N-terminus, to form an amide bond; characterized in that during the process, wherein a salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^m)_n$, which is soluble in a solvent used in this process, is added, process is added, and wherein, if the salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^m)_n$, is added in step c), the solvent is neither a chloroform/phenol nor a chloroform/trifluoroethanol mixture.
4. (currently amended) A process The process according to claim 2 or 3 claim 2, which additionally comprises the following step:
- d) perform performing a thorough washing;
wherein step d) is performed after step c).
5. (currently amended) A process for attaching an α -amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus to another amino acid or peptide which is protected by an α - amino protecting group and which is attached to a support during solid phase peptide synthesis comprising the following steps:
- a) cleave cleaving the α -amino protecting group from the amino acid or peptide attached to the support;
- b) perform performing a thorough washing;
- c) add adding an α -amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus and couple coupling it to the amino acid or peptide that is attached to the support and that now has an unprotected N-terminus, to form an amide bond; and
- d) perform performing another thorough washing;
characterized in that wherein at least in step a), a salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^m)_n$, which is soluble in a solvent used in this step, is added.
6. (currently amended) A process for attaching an α -amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus to another amino acid or peptide which is protected by an

α -amino protecting group and which is attached to a support during solid phase peptide synthesis comprising ~~the following steps:~~:

- a) ~~cleave~~ cleaving the α -amino protecting group from the amino acid or peptide attached to the support;
- b) ~~perform~~ performing a thorough washing;
- c) ~~add~~ adding an α -amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus and ~~couple~~ coupling it to the amino acid or peptide that is attached to the support and that now has an unprotected N-terminus, to form an amide bond;
- d) ~~perform~~ performing another thorough washing; ~~and characterized in that wherein~~ at least in step b), a salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^m)_n$, which is soluble in a solvent used in this step, is added.

7. (currently amended) A process for attaching an α -amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus to another amino acid or peptide which is protected by an α -amino protecting group and which is attached to a support during solid phase peptide synthesis comprising ~~the following steps:~~:

- a) ~~cleave~~ cleaving the α -amino protecting group from the amino acid or peptide attached to the support;
- b) ~~perform~~ performing a thorough washing;
- c) ~~add~~ adding an α -amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus and ~~couple~~ coupling it to the amino acid or peptide that is attached to the support and that now has an unprotected N-terminus, to form an amide bond; and
- d) ~~perform~~ performing another thorough washing;
~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least in step c), a salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^m)_n$, which is soluble in a solvent used in this step, is added, ~~and~~ wherein the solvent is neither a chloroform/phenol nor a chloroform/trifluoroethanol mixture.

8. (currently amended) A process for attaching an α -amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus to another amino acid or peptide which is protected by an

α -amino protecting group and which is attached to a support during solid phase peptide synthesis comprising ~~the following steps:~~:

- a) ~~cleave~~ cleaving the α -amino protecting group from the amino acid or peptide attached to the support;
- b) ~~perform~~ performing a thorough washing;
- c) ~~add~~ adding an α -amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus and ~~couple~~ coupling it to the amino acid or peptide that is attached to the support and that now has an unprotected N-terminus, to form an amide bond; and
- d) ~~perform~~ performing another thorough washing:
~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least in step d), a salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^m)_n$, which is soluble in a solvent used in this step, is added.

9. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to any of claims 1 to 8 ~~claim 1~~, wherein the salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^m)_n$ is selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts, ionic liquids, phosphonium salts, sulfonium salts, inorganic salts ~~or~~ and any mixture thereof.

10. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to claim 9 wherein $(Y^m)_n$ is selected from the group consisting of fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, hydroxide, carbonate, hydrogenocarbonate, nitrate, phosphate, hydrogenophosphate, dihydrogenophosphate, tetrafluoroborate, hexafluorophosphate, acetate, carboxylates, cyanides, isocyanates, tetraalkylborates, tetra-arylborates, trifluoroacetate, tosylate, mesylate ~~or~~ and any mixture thereof.

11. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to claim 9 wherein the quaternary ammonium salt is selected from the group consisting of benzyltrimethylammonium hydroxide, benzyltrimethylammonium chloride ~~or~~ and benzyltrimethylammonium carbonate, the phosphonium salt is tetrabutylphosphonium bromide and the sulfonium salt is triethylsulfonium tetrafluoroborate.

12. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to any of claims 2 to 11 claim 2, wherein the salt added in step a), b), c) or d) is also added in one or more of the other steps.

13. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to any of claims 3 to 12 claim 3, wherein the α -amino protecting group is Fmoc (9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl) or Nsc (p-Nitrophenylsulphonylethoxycarbonate) or any other base-cleavable protecting group.

14. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to any of claims 3 to 12 claim 3, wherein the α -amino protecting group is Boc (tert-butoxycarbonyl), Trt (trityl), Bpoc (2-p-Biphenylisopropoxycarbonyl) or any other acid-cleavable protecting group.

15. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to any of claims 3 to 12 claim 3, wherein the α -amino protecting group is selected so that neither acid nor base treatment is required for its cleavage.

16. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process for synthesising a peptide comprising:

- attaching a first amino acid or peptide, having an α -amino protecting group, via its C-terminus to a functionalized support;
- ~~perform~~ performing the process according to any of claims 3 to 15 claim 3 with the following amino acid or peptide foreseen in the sequence;
- ~~repeat step b'~~ repeating step b) with the appropriate amino acids or peptides until the desired sequence is achieved; and
- ~~cleave~~ cleaving the assembled peptide from the support by an appropriate method.

17. (canceled) ~~Use of a salt $(X_{n+})_m(Y_m)_n$ in solid phase peptide synthesis for improving the washing of the peptide resin.~~

18. (canceled) ~~Use according to claim 17 for improving the elimination of excess amino acids or cleavage reagents.~~